

South Grampian and Southeast Highlands

Including South and East Cairngorms National Park, Aberdeenshire and Angus Hills, Ben Vrackie, Ben Lawers, Loch Tay and Ochils

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 29 Dec 2023 at 15:00 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Saturday and for less severe conditions on Sunday, but lower for snow and cloud amounts and wind strength Sunday and Monday. Low for broader weather from Tuesday.

Headline for Saturday 30 Dec 2023: An increasingly cloudy morning. Persistent snow and gales in the afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Blizzards

High Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow

High Likelihood

Storm force winds

Low Likelihood

Gales

High Likelihood

Severe chill effect

High Likelihood

Poor visibility

High Likelihood

Thunderstorms

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain

No Likelihood

Strong sunlight

No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
							
Clear night	Clear night	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Sleet
Precipitation probability							
00%	00%	00%	<05%	30%	>95%	90%	90%

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Weather: Cold with largely clear skies through the early hours. High cloud increases towards dawn, thickening and lowering through the morning. Persistent heavy snow and summit gales in the afternoon and evening, turning to rain below 500m around dusk, then below 1000m in the evening. Rain and summit snow turning light and patchy towards midnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% in the morning. Nil in the afternoon.

Low Cloud and visibility: Very good visibility in the morning with the main cloud base well above the summits. Some patchy cloud around 800m across the eastern hills. Cloud quickly lowering to 300-400m after midday with near zero visibility in blizzards on the hills.

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1100	30/36 W	20/24 W	14/20 N	14/18 E	33/41 SE	47/58 SE	43/54 SE	28/35 S	23/28 S
900	19/25 W	14/18 W	6/11 N	10/14 E	23/31 SE	33/45 SE	30/41 SE	19/25 S	16/21 S
600	14/23 W	10/15 W	4/8 W	6/9 SE	14/25 SE	21/36 SE	20/36 SE	10/20 S	9/18 S
300	9/22 W	7/19 W	3/6 W	2/4 NE	5/12 E	14/27 E	11/26 E	5/15 SE	3/8 SE
Glen	8/21 W	5/15 SW	3/8 SW	2/4 W	6/13 E	13/27 E	14/30 E	8/21 S	5/11 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1100	-6/-16	-7/-15	-6/-13	-5/-12	-5/-14	-4/-15	-2/-11	-2/-9	-2/-9
900	-4/-12	-5/-12	-5/-9	-4/-10	-3/-11	-3/-12	-0/-8	0/-6	-0/-6
600	-2/-8	-3/-8	-4/-7	-3/-7	-1/-7	-1/-8	1/-6	1/-3	1/-3
300	-0/-4	-1/-5	-4/-6	-4/-6	0/-2	1/-5	2/-2	3/1	2/1
Glen	0/-3	-1/-4	-4/-6	-3/-5	1/-2	2/-4	4/-1	5/2	4/2
Freezing Level*	100m	100m	100m	100m	200m	400m	900m	1100m	1000m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Extremely challenging conditions on the hills with near zero visibility, heavy snow and summit gales making any progress very difficult, especially at higher levels.

Forecast for Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Weather: Dull and grey with persistent low cloud and frequent mainly light snow flurries, falling as rain below 700m. Perhaps turning drier in the evening and for midnight, but low cloud will persist.

Maximum wind: South 10-15 mph gusting 20 mph, becoming Southeast in the afternoon then northeast 10 mph in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% or less.

Low Cloud and visibility: Generally very poor visibility with persistent low cloud, with cloud bases around 300-400m.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 2 Celsius, falling to minus 1 Celsius in the evening.
At 800m: Minus 1 Celsius falling to minus 3 Celsius in the evening.
Freezing level: 800-900m.